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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT TO APPOINT A TASK
FORCE TO ASSESS THE PROBLEM OF ELECTRONIC WASTE AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL.

WHEREAS, the technology explosion has created an
exponential increase in electronic waste that contains
dangerous substances such as lead, mercury and
polychlorinated biphenyls that can pollute air and water; and

WHEREAS, used and nonfunctioning electronic products
draw down landfill space, and recycling those products
prevents the release of heavy metals and polychlorinated
biphenyls that could pose environmental and health risks; and

WHEREAS, the city of Albuquerque has established a
program to support computer recycling; and

WHEREAS, the national recycling coalition provides
technical advice to recycle and reduce electronic waste; and

WHEREAS, the private sector conducts events to collect
and recycle electronic waste; and

WHEREAS, there are companies in Arizona, Colorado and
Texas that specialize in electronic waste recycling; and

WHEREAS, there is a market for recycling electronic
waste that can provide jobs and computer resources for
education;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary of environment be
2 requested to appoint a task force composed of the department
3 of environment, local governments, recycling coalitions,
4 local solid waste authorities, the private computer industry,
5 the city of Albuquerque and the national laboratories to
6 assess the problem of electronic waste; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its
8 findings and make recommendations to the appropriate
9 committee of the legislature by December 1, 2005; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
11 transmitted to the secretary of environment. _____

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